

Memorandum

To: Mark Sobota, PE
Project Engineer, NR Design – E2

Date: March 25, 2008

File No.: 01-DN-101- PM 35.8/36.5
01-436400
Smith River Bridge
Geotechnical Field
Investigation

Original signed by

From: Steve Werner
North Region Office of Environmental Engineering—North

Subject: Initial Site Assessment

This office conducted an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) to identify potential hazardous waste / contamination issues for the proposed geotechnical field investigation at the Smith River Bridge in Del Norte County. The ISA was initiated by your request dated March 5, 2008 that included maps and a field investigation plan showing proposed drilling and geophysical survey locations, as well as access roads to be used.

Two sites adjacent to the bridge have been identified as having past or present petroleum hydrocarbon contamination issues. One site is on the southwest corner of the approximately 5-acre parcel at the southwest quadrant of the project site (APNs 105-700-01, 105701-01 and 105-701-2). The Melody Market, at 7300 Lake Earl Drive, was located on this parcel and had a release of petroleum hydrocarbons. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board considers the case closed; however, low levels of hydrocarbons may be present. It is likely that the proposed borings will not encounter hydrocarbons from that release, due primarily to the probable gradient to the northwest towards the Smith River, and locations of proposed work cross gradient to the release site. An investigation by this office of the underground tank issues will likely take place when right of way required for the project is better defined.

The Granite Construction facility at the southeast quadrant of the bridge site also has petroleum hydrocarbon contamination issues. It appears that the majority of the issues are contained within parcel APN 105-260-05 approximately 150 feet east of the State-right of way. Low levels of petroleum hydrocarbon (motor oil and diesel) have also been found to be present on adjacent parcel APN 105-020-20, which lies between the State right of way and the Granite Construction facility. The Granite Construction's test locations where these low levels were detected are approximately 60 feet southeast (up gradient) of the proposed bore holes right of Abutment 1. Although documents prepared by Granite

Construction's consultant indicate that the proposed bore hole right of Bent 10 is not within an area impacted by contamination migrating from the site, we consider all areas on the southeast quadrant of the bridge site to be suspect for petroleum hydrocarbon contamination.

The ISA also found that the proposed work has hazardous waste issues related to Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) in the alluvial gravels at the site and material piles at the Granite facility, Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) in shallow soils related to vehicle exhaust, and lead and chromium in sandblast waste (SBW) related to bridge painting. Soil testing by this office to determine the concentrations of NOA, ADL, and SBW present at the site has not been conducted.

For the purposes of determining the appropriate environmental documents required for the project, the above-described 5-acre site on which the former Melody Market was situated should be considered to be on the *Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List)*. The Granite Construction facility (APN 105-260-05) should also be considered to be on the *Cortese List*.

We recognize that due to Departmental policy, State personnel may not be allowed to work in areas with some or all of the above-described contamination issues. If this is the case, this office can arrange, through a task order process on an existing service contract, to provide consulting geotechnical services (drilling, logging, sampling, and testing) in areas that have known or suspected contamination issues. Executing task orders can be delayed due to the lack of a State Budget and funding availability, so long term planning is important if this avenue is pursued.

If there are any changes to the scope of the project, please send a request for an updated ISA. Communications may be directed to me at (707) 445-6658.

cc: 1-SWerner

2-File

Email copies to: Steve Werner
Gary Banducci
Betsy Bareilles Mgt. Code 6-3
Kevin Church
Charlie Narwold
Stephanie Coleman

SSW/ks

